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## PRESS RELEASE

—For Immediate Release—

Ann Hayward, the Associate Clerk of Court in Machias, was presented with a Special Services Award at a recent meeting of court staff from around the State. The presentation was made by Supreme Court Justice Donald G. Alexander in a ceremony in Augusta. Also participating in the presentation was District Court Judge John Romei of Machias.

Ms. Hayward is a long time employee of the Judicial Branch having served in Machias since 1982. Her particular area of responsibility is the Superior Court criminal docket. Her knowledge, experience and initiative allow her to work effectively in preparing for a criminal term. Judges can rely on the fact that she knows the docket from one end to the other. She knows the cases that need priority, those with pending motions, those with scheduling conflicts, those that might require extra security or heightened vigilance and she knows many of the parties and all of the lawyers. This knowledge is invaluable to the judges assigned to the criminal docket. Her influence and leadership, however, extend to all aspects of the court's operations.

In recent years the court has seen numerous changes with the consolidation of the Superior Court and District Court clerks' offices, modifications to the physical plant within the clerks' office, and the implementation of a new model for scheduling. Ms. Hayward has been a key performer in ensuring that court operations function as efficiently as possible even in times of transition. Her organizational skills go a long way toward making that court run as well as it does.

One of the individuals who nominated Ms. Hayward for this award noted that Ann's proficiency and efficiency have an incredible "multiplier effect" and she makes everyone around her that much more productive. She's knowledgeable about court operations and a pleasure to work with. She is recognized as a "people person" because she listens and understands the concerns of the people she deals with in criminal cases, making their experience easier for them and for the court.

In making the presentation Justice Alexander recounted how he has had the opportunity to work with Ms. Hayward since she first came to the court and he has found her to be dedicated, professional, and a tremendous asset to the court system. He noted that the Judicial Branch is fortunate to have so many excellent employees and that Ms. Hayward embodies the best qualities of the court system's staff.

The Special Service Awards are presented to those who make a contribution to improvements in the operation and performance of the Judicial Branch that is deserving of public recognition, and Ms. Hayward has clearly demonstrated those essential characteristics.